

Message Text

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E. O. 11652:XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, UK, CB

SUBJECT: FCO COMMENT ON CAMBODIAN BRITISH DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS

REF: STATE 198802

1. SIMONS, HEAD OF FCO SOUTHEAST ASIA DEPARTMENT, COMMENTED TO EMBOFF AS FOLLOWS ON AUGUST 16 RE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN UK AND DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA: CAMBODIAN REGIME IN FACT INITIATED PROPOSAL FOR THEIR ESTABLISHMENT, WHILE ATTEMPTING TO PRETEND THAT BRITISH HAD INITIATED IT. CAMBODIANS EVIDENTLY WISHED TO ACCOMPLISH THIS BEFORE COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. THUS, WHEN BRITISH ON AUGUST 3 INFORMED THEM OF HMG OBJECTION TO PHRASE "NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, CAMBODIANS ACCEPTED BRITISH SUBSTITUTE FORMULA "ON BASIS OF UN CHARTER" ONLY FOUR DAYS LATER, AND ANNOUNCEMENT WAS THEREUPON MADE ON AUGUST 9.

2. SIMONS SAID BRITISH WERE NOT PARTICULARLY DESIROUS OF ESTABLISHING RELATIONS. MAIN ADVANTAGE BRITISH WILL OBTAIN IS INCREASED ABILITY TO ANSWER PUBLIC
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AND PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ON ATROCITIES IN

CAMBODIA, INCLUDING THOSE OF CONSERVATIVE SHADOW
FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN MAUDLING.

3. FCO CLASSIFIED AND "UNATTRIBUTABLE" POLICY
GUIDANCE READS AS FOLLOWS: "WE HAVE NO PRESENT
INTENTION OF ESTABLISHING A RESIDENT DIPLOMATIC
MISSION IN PHNOM PENH. WE MAY IN DUE COURSE PROPOSE
THE NON-RESIDENT ACCREDITATION OF HER MAJESTY'S
AMBASSADOR IN PEKING." THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD
PRESUMABLY ENABLE FCO TO SEND IN REPRESENTATIVE FOR
BRIEF PERIODS TO CHECK ON BRITISH PROPERTY, ETC.
BRITISH HAVE ALREADY CONVEYED THEIR CONCERN OVER
THE ATROCITY STORIES TO KAMPUCHEAN GOVERNMENT REPS IN
VIENTIANE.

ARMSTRONG

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